

Attorney Docket No. VER-157XX

Filed: Herewith

Group Art Unit:


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Note that claims 6-8 have been amended; new claims 10-25 have been added; and claims 1-5 and 9 remain unchanged. Kindly calculate the filing fee based on the amended claims.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHANNES BORSBOOM, ET AL.

By:   
Charles L. Gagnebin III  
Registration No. 25,467  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN, GAGNEBIN  
& LEBOVICI LLP  
Ten Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109  
Telephone: (617) 542-2290  
Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

Date: 3-28-2

CLG/mc/269853-1  
Enclosure

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Red-lined claims for the Examiner's convenience:

6. Process according to claims 2-5, wherein the carrier material is selected from the group of silica,  $\alpha$ -alumina, silica alumina, zirconia, carbon (fibres), carbides, phosphates (such as aluminium phosphate).

7. Process according to claims 1-6, wherein the said space velocity is less than  $12000 \text{ h}^{-1}$ , preferably less than  $10000 \text{ h}^{-1}$ .

8. Process for the removal of sulphur contaminants from gas mixtures, said process comprising the steps of

converting part of the hydrogen sulphide into sulphur dioxide,

subjecting the mixture to the Claus reaction in at least one catalytic reactor,

subjecting the sulphur dioxide present in resultant gas mixture to a removal step using the process of ~~any one of the~~ claims 1-7.